

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00149R000200460003-0

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GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.  
PRESSE. 126,121  
S. 98,302

CPYRGHT JAN 14 1966



Grand Rapids Press Photographer.

**MEDAL FROM VATICAN**—Capt. George Duvall, flight, shows Eugene Kennedy, direction of development at Aquinas College, St. Christopher medals Pope Paul VI blessed for him when he flew him from New York to Rome.

### Visits Here

## Super Security For Pope's Pilot

Security may be a thumb and in Greenwich, Conn., was in market for Linus, but for air Grand Rapids Thursday visiting pilot George Duvall. It's his wife, Betty Jane's mother, and F.B.I. investigators, Mrs. C. L. Schumann of 568 Morris Ave. SE.

Duvall was selected from more than 2,000 pilots to skipper the Pope's eight-hour flight

Oct. 4. He said he had an audience with the Pope last March which may have helped him land the flying honors.

Duvall said the Pope flew like any other passenger, purchased his ticket and flew on a scheduled flight. He also requested an integrated crew representing various nationalities, races and religions.

Although Duvall considered flying the Pope an honor, he was faced with several frustrating experiences.

He was requested to check in at Kennedy Airport in the morning, the flight didn't leave until the evening, and he couldn't talk to unauthorized personnel.

### Waits for Air Clearance

"My baggage was searched by naval security and after taxiing onto the runway I couldn't even get clearance to take off until all other aircraft were off the runway," he said.

Once airborne, aside from skippering the plane, Duvall relayed messages from the Pope to foreign countries, showed the Pope the cockpit and "tried to give good service", just like on any other TWA flight.

Near the end of the flight the Pope presented each crew member a special medal commemorating the trip and a card with his signature. He also went to the cockpit again to say goodbye to Duvall.

At that time the Pope blessed 100 St. Christopher medals for Capt. Duvall. Pope Paul told Duvall that he would like to visit the U.S. soon as a guest, since his historic trip officially took him just to the U.N.

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